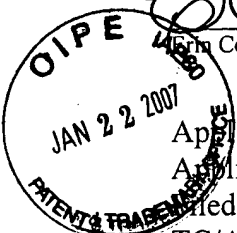


**CERTIFICATE OF TRANSMISSION/MAILING**

I hereby certify that this correspondence is being facsimile transmitted to the USPTO at (571) 273-8300 or deposited with the United States Postal Service with sufficient postage as first class mail in an envelope addressed to Commissioner for Patents, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450 on January 17, 2006.

Ref. No.: 12439-0286



46m Cowles

**IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE**

Appl. No. : 09/364,788  
Applicant : Benjamin N. Eldridge  
Filed : July 30, 1999  
TC/A.U. : 2839  
Examiner : Prasad, Chandrika  
Docket No. : P84-US

Confirmation No. 9878

Mail Stop Amendment  
Commissioner for Patents  
P.O. Box 1450  
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

**INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT**

To Whom It May Concern:

Listed on an attached Form PTO/SB/08A is information known to applicant(s). Applicants ask that the attached Form PTO/SB/08A be initialed and returned in accordance with MPEP §609. This statement is not intended to represent that a search has been made or that the information cited in the statement is, or is considered to be, material to patentability as defined in §1.56.

**COMMONLY OWNED, RELATED U.S. PATENTS AND APPLICATIONS**

Applicants note that citation numbers 21 and 22 in the attached listing are U.S. patents or applications that are commonly owned with the above-identified patent application and may contain subject matter that is related to the subject matter of the above-identified patent application. The Examiner's attention is therefore directed to the prosecution history of the foregoing related U.S. patent(s) and patent application(s) and prior art cited in these patent(s) and patent application(s); Applicants assume the Examiner has access to all of the prosecution history, including the cited prior art, of these patents(s) and patent application(s), but Applicants will provide copies of all or any part of the prosecution history of or prior art from any of these patent(s) or patent application(s) upon request.

- ☒ This statement qualifies under 37 C.F.R. §1.97, subsection (b) because (check all that apply):
- ☐ It is being filed within 3 months of the application filing date (other than the filing date of a continued prosecution application under §1.53(d)); or
  - ☐ It is being filed within 3 months of entry of a national stage; or
  - ☐ It is being filed before the mail date of the first Office Action on the merits; or
  - ☒ It is being filed before the mail date of the first Office Action after the filing of a request for continued examination under §1.114.
- ☐ 37 C.F.R. §1.97(c). If this statement is being filed three months after the filing date of a national application or entry of the national stage in an international application and the mailing date of a first Office action on the merits but before the mailing date of the earlier of a final office action, a notice of allowance, or an action that otherwise closes prosecution in the application, then:
- ☐ a statement as specified in §1.97(e) is provided below; **or**
  - ☐ a fee of \$180.00 as set forth in §1.17(p) is authorized below, enclosed, or included with the payment of other papers filed together with this statement.
- ☐ 37 C.F.R. §1.97(d). If this statement is being filed after the mailing date of the earlier of a final office action under §1.113, a notice of allowance under §1.311, or an action that otherwise closes prosecution in the application, but before payment of the issue fee, then:
- a statement as specified in §1.97(e) is provided below; **and**
  - a fee of \$180.00 as set forth in §1.17(p) is authorized below, enclosed, or included with the payment of other papers filed together with this statement.

Appl. no. 09/364,788  
IDS dated January 17, 2007

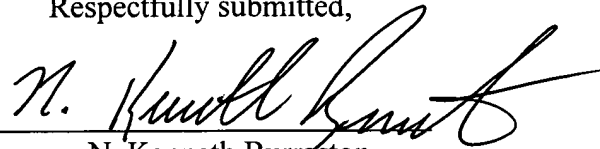
*Fee:*

- ☒ No fee is due.
- ☐ A check that includes \$\_\_\_\_\_ for the above-identified fee(s) is enclosed.
- ☐ Payment is provided by credit card.
- ☐ This statement is filed as one part of a multi-part submission. The fee for the complete submission was included in an electronically filed submission on \_\_. Applicants request the foregoing fee be accepted for this statement. (See OG Notice dated 17 September 2002.)

Respectfully submitted,

Date: January 17, 2007

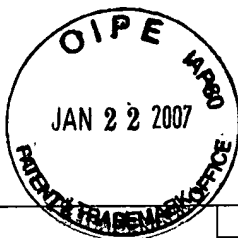
By



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Modified Form PTO/SB/08A

Substitute for form 1449A/PTO

# **INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT BY APPLICANT**

(use as many sheets as necessary)

*Complete If Known*

<b>INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT BY APPLICANT</b> (use as many sheets as necessary)		Application Number	09/364,788
		Filing Date	July 30, 1999
		First Named Inventor	Benjamin N. Eldridge
		Group Art Unit	2839
		Examiner Name	Prasad, Chandrika
No. of Sheets: 1	No. of Refs.: 22	Attorney Docket No.	P84-US

## **U.S. PUBLISHED PATENT DOCUMENTS**

Examiner Initials <sup>*</sup>	Cite No. <sup>1</sup>	U.S. Patent Document		Name of Patentee or Applicant	Publ./Issue Date	Related <sup>#</sup>	Copy Enclosed
		Number	Kind Code <sup>2</sup>				
	1.	2981877		Noyce	4/1961		Yes
	2.	3550261		Schroeder	12/1970		Yes
	3.	3653999		Fuller	4/1972		Yes
	4.	3672985		Nathanson et al.	6/1972		Yes
	5.	3952404		Matunami	4/1976		Yes
	6.	4022641		Lindberg	5/1977		Yes
	7.	4189342		Kock	2/1980		Yes
	8.	5149673		MacDonald et al.	9/1992		Yes
	9.	5587328		Yoshida	12/1996		Yes
	10.	5756370		Farnworth et al.	5/1998		Yes
	11.	5763941		Fjelstad et al.	6/1998		Yes
	12.	5904498		Fjelstad et al.	5/1999		Yes
	13.	5913109		Distefano et al.	6/1999		Yes
	14.	5976913		Distefano	11/1999		Yes
	15.	5989936		Smith et al.	11/1999		Yes
	16.	6080603		Distefano et al.	6/2000		Yes
	17.	6208024		Distefano	3/2001		Yes
	18.	6221750		Fjelstad	4/2001		Yes
	19.	6362520		Distefano	3/2002		Yes
	20.	6475822		Eldridge et al.	11/2002		Yes
	21.	6713374		Eldridge et al.	3/30/2004	✓	Yes

## **U.S. UNPUBLISHED PATENT APPLICATIONS**

Examiner Initials <sup>*</sup>	Cite No. <sup>1</sup>	Serial No.	Name of Applicant	Filing Date	Related <sup>#</sup>	Copy Enclosed
	22.	09/364,855	Eldridge et al.	7/30/1999	✓	Yes

Examiner Signature	Date Considered
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\* EXAMINER: Initial if reference considered, whether or not citation is in conformance with MPEP 609. Draw line through citation if not in conformance and not considered. Include copy of this form with next communication

<sup>1</sup>Unique citation designation number. <sup>2</sup>See attached Kinds of U.S. Patent Documents. <sup>3</sup>Enter Office that issued the document, by the two-letter code (WIPO Standard ST.3). <sup>4</sup>For Japanese patent documents, the indication of the year of the reign of the Emperor must precede the serial number of the patent document. <sup>5</sup>Kind of document by the appropriate symbols as indicated on the document under WIPO Standard ST.16 if possible. <sup>6</sup>Applicant is to place a check mark here if English language Translation is attached.

# Commonly owned US patent or application whose subject matter may be related to the subject matter of the instance patent application.